

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 IO-11

/094 W

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R 091230Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5954

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2443

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR

SUB: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY ENDS SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO IRAN

SUMMARY: BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLIGHAN DEPARTED TEHRAN MARCH 8 AFTER SUCCESSFUL FOUR-DAY VISIT TO IRAN DURING WHICH HE OBTAINED CONFIRMATION THAT THIRD TRANCHE OF IRAN'S LOAN TO GREAT BRITAIN WILL BE DISBURSED IN 1977 AND DISCUSSED AFRICAN AND OTHER MAJOR WORLD EVENTS WITH SHAH AND FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY. END SUMMARY

1. GOI AGREED DURING CALLAGHAN VISIT TO PAY FINAL \$400 MILLION TRANCHE ON \$1.2 BILLION LOAN AT UNDETERMINED DATE IN 1977. ANOTHER FINANCIAL ISSUE TAKEN UP DURING VISIT WAS PAYMENTS TO UK FIRMS HAVING CONTRACTS WITH GOI. WHEN CALLAGHAN BROUGHT MATTER UP WITH SHAH, HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THESE BILLS HAD NOT BEEN PAID. HE ASKED FOR A LIST OF ARREARAGES, AND BRITISH EMBASSY
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PROVIDED LIST WHICH WAS GIVEN TO PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA AND

FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY MARCH 7 TO ACT ON. FOLLOWING DAY
BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER LEARNED THAT ONE OF BRITISH FIRMS ON
THE LIST HAD BEEN PAID HALF THE AMOUNT DUE IT, AND BRITISH
BELIEVE THIS WAS DIRECT RESULT OF DISCUSSION WITH SHAH.

2. CALLAGHAN'S AUDIENCE WITH SHAH MARCH 6 LASTED AN HOUR, AND
ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THIS TIME WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSIONS OF
ANGOLAN, RHODESIAN, AND SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS. CALLAGHAN URGED
SHAH TO UNDERSTAND FLEXIBLE BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARD SOLUTION OF
RHODESIAN PROBLEM, TAKING RATHER TOUGH LINE AGAINST IAN SMITH
AND STRESSING BRITISH EFFORTS TO MAKE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT
REACH SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH BLACK MAJORITY. CALLAGHAN
SUGGESTED TO SHAH THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO TAKE UP WITH
SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUL GENERAL (READ AMBASSADOR) FRASER SUGGESTION
THAT SOUTH AFRICA PULL ITS TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA TO AVOID
CONFRONTATION WITH MPLA. HIS APPROACH WAS THAT IN BOTH ANGOLA
AND MOZAMBIQUE NATIONALISTS ARE TAKING OVER, AND EVEN IF
MOZAMBIQUE GOES THE WAY OF ANGOLA, RESULTING GOVERNMENTS MAY NOT
NECESSARILY BE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH. CALLAGHAN COUNTERED
SHAH'S PESSIMISM ABOUT SOVIET SUCCESS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE AND
ENUMERATED VARIOUS EXAMPLES WHERE SOVIET POLICY HAD NOT BEEN
SUCCESSFUL, INCLUDING PARTY CONGRESS IN MOSCOW AT WHICH
ITALIAN COMMUNISTS HAD TAKEN AN INDEPENDENT ROLE. SUBJECT OF
RCD EXPANSION ALSO AROSE DURING AUDIENCE, AND SHAH HINTED
INCLUSION OF INDIA MIGHT BE A WAY TO KEEP INDIA FROM EDGING
CLOSER TO SOVIET DOMINATION NOW THAT INDO-U.S. RELATIONS ARE
AGAIN AT A LOW EBB. THE SHAH INDICATED HE MAY DISCUSS THIS
ISSUE DURING CURRENT VISIT IN PAKISTAN AND THAT SUBJECT MAY BE
A MAJOR ITEM ON AGENDA FOR APRIL MEETINGS IN PAKISTAN.

3. DURING HIS MEETING WITH KHALATBARY, CALLAGHAN SUGGESTED GOI
URGE TURKS TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO CLERIDES' EXPECTED
PROPOSALS FOR SOME TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS. KHALATBARY
GAVE NON-COMMITAL RESPONSE AND INDICATED GOI WOULD SUPPORT TURKS
IN WHATEVER POSITION THEY TOOK.

4. NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED. PRESS COVERED ANNOUNCEMENTS
THAT PRIME MINISTER WILSON WILL VISIT IRAN IN SEPTEMBER AND THAT
EMPRESS FARAH WILL SOON VISIT UK. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL CARRIED
LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH CALLAGHAN IN WHICH HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING,
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"IRAN IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRY FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW
OUTSIDE THE WEST--OUR TRADE WITH IRAN HAS GROWN FASTER THAN OUR
TRADE WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY."

5. COMMENT: CALLAGHAN APPARENTLY CAME TO IRAN WITHOUT SPECIFIC
POLICY GOALS OTHER THAN THAT OF UNDERLINING CLOSE WORKING
RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOI. ACCORDING TO BRITISH EMBASSY HE DEPARTED
WELL SATISFIED WITH RESULTS.

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